ambition. Take away these incentives to action, and it is impossible to calculate how much earthly excellence would be taken away, or rather to say how little would remain. " All the works of human industry are, in a great measure, referable to ambition of some sort, that, however humble it may seem to minds of prouder views, is yet relatively as strong as the ambition of the proudest. We toil that we may have some little influence, or some little distinction, however small the number of our inferiors may be."* We are not denying the existence of genuine philanthropy; it requires, however, but a very little acquaintance with the lives of poets, statesmen, artists, warriors, and philosophers too, to gather from the motives which they avow, that, but for the praise of men, and the influence expected to be obtained, they would not have made such sacrifices or practised such self-denial, and the world would not have reaped from their labours the benefit which has accrued.

The advantages arising from frugality, and this even when it assumes the form of avarice, have been pointed out by the father of political economy. " Parsimony/' he says, " by increasing the fund which is destined for the maintenance of productive hands, tends to increase the number of those hands, whose labour adds to the value of the subject on which it is bestowed. It tends, therefore, to increase the exchangeable value of the annual produce of the land and labour of the country. It puts into motion an additional quantity of industry, which gives an additional value to the annual produce."f Such are its effects in an economic point of view ; and its influence in spreading a spirit of caution, prudence, industry, temperance, and foresight, throughout a community, are not less salutary. The virtues of poorer nations, and of the labouring classes, are all intimately connected with that frugality on which parents set so high a value, and which they are accustomed to recommend to

their children.

But it has not been observed by Dr. Adam Smith, that in the overruling providence of God beneficial effects also follow from the opposite spirit, that of prodigality. " It is quite obvious/' says Malthus, " that the principle of saving pushed to excess would destroy the motive to production. If every person were satisfied with the simplest food, the poorest clothing, and the meanest houses, it is certain that no other sort of food and

* Brown's Lectures, Lcct. Irviii.f Wealth of Nations, B. III. c, iii.